

PAYING TRIBUTE TO EDGAR
STOPHER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life of Edgar Stopher who passed away recently at the age of 93. Edgar was a pillar of our Colorado community, and as his family mourns their loss, I think it is appropriate that we remember his life and celebrate his contributions to our nation today.

Edgar was born in Loveland, Colorado in 1909. After his graduation from high school in 1929, Edgar continued his education at the University of Colorado, where he earned a bachelors degree in 1932. During World War II, Edgar answered his country's call to duty and served in the United States Air Force. By war's end Edgar had achieved the rank of Major and was awarded numerous decorations.

Following the War, Edgar moved to Estes Park, where he became the General Manager of the Stanley Hotel. In 1970, he joined the Sheraton Corporation as General Manager of the French Lick Springs Hotel in Indiana. Edgar's position with the Sheraton ultimately led to his relocation to Steamboat Springs, where he became the manager of the Sheraton Hotel there. He retired from that position in 1985.

Edgar was active in volunteer work in every Colorado community in which he lived. He was a member of the Chamber of Commerce, President of the Board of Education and also gave his time to the Masonic Lodge.

Mr. Speaker, Edgar Stopher's dedication and selflessness certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress. It is my privilege to pay tribute to him for his contributions to the State of Colorado and our nation. I would like to extend my thoughts and deepest sympathies to Edgar's family and friends during this difficult time.

TEXAS TROOPS IN IRAQ

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the brave men and women of our Armed Forces and especially to honor those who have bravely fought and given their lives in Iraq.

Texans have a long history of serving in our military, and the same holds true today in Iraq.

There have been more men and women from Texas who have given their lives in Iraq, than from any other State other than California.

Since the U.S. launched its first airstrike in Iraq, 273 Americans have been killed in hostile action; 158 of those deaths coming after the President declared major combat to be over on March 1.

As of Friday, the Defense Department knew of 34 Texans who had been killed serving their country in Iraq.

Our hearts go out to the family members of these individuals who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country:

Sgt. Edward Anguiano, 24, of Los Fresnos, was killed in action on March 23;

Chief Warrant Officer Andrew Arnold, 30, of Spring, was killed in action on March 22; Spc. Richard Arriaga, 20, of Ganado, was killed in an action on September 18;

Sgt. Michael Barrera, 26, of Von Ormy, was killed in action on October 28;

Staff Sgt. Gary Collins, 32, of Hardin, was killed in action on November 8;

Capt. Eric Das, 30, of Amarillo, was killed in action on April 7;

Pvt. Ruben Estrella-Soto, 18, of El Paso, was killed in action on March 23;

Master Sgt. George Fernandez, 36, of El Paso, was killed in action on April 2;

Pvt. Robert Frantz, 19, of San Antonio, was killed in action on June 17;

Spc. Rodrigo Gonzalez-Garza, 26, of Texas, was killed in action on February 25;

Pfc. Analaura Esparza-Gutierrez, 21, of Houston, was killed in action on October 1;

Chief Warrant Officer Second Class Scott Jamar, 32, of Granbury, was killed in action on April 2;

Staff Sgt. Phillip Jordan, 42, of Brazoria, was killed in action on March 23;

Cpl. Brian Kennedy, 25, of Houston, was killed in action on March 21;

Spc. James Kiehl, 22, of Comfort, was killed in action on March 23;

Chief Warrant Officer Johnny Mata, 35, of Amarillo, was killed in action on March 23;

Cpl. Jesus Medellin, 21, of Fort Worth, was killed in action on April 7;

Sgt. Daniel Methvin, 22, of Belton, was killed in action on July 26;

Pfc. Anthony Miller, 19, of San Antonio, was killed in action on April 7;

Sgt. Keelan Moss, 23, of Houston, was killed in action on November 2;

Spc. Joseph Norquist, 26, of San Antonio, was killed in action on October 9;

Staff Sgt. Hector Perez, 40, of Corpus Christi, was killed in action on July 24;

Second Lt. Jonathan Rozier, 25, of Katy, was killed in action on July 19;

Cpl. Tomas Sotelo, Jr., 20, of Houston, was killed in action on June 27;

Spc. James Wright, 27, of Morgan, was killed in action on September 18;

Pfc. Stephen Wyatt, 19, of Kilgore, was killed in action on October 13;

Pfc. Chad Bales, 20, of Coahoma, died on April 3.

Spc. Zeferino Colunga, 20, of Bellville, died on August 6.

1st Sgt. Joe Garza, 43, of Robstown, died on April 28.

Spc. John Johnson, 24, of Houston, died on October 22.

Spc. Christian Schulz, 20, of Colleyville, died on July 11.

Spc. Joseph Suell, 24, of Lufkin, died on June 16.

Sgt. Melissa Valles, 26, of Eagle Pass, died on July 9.

Sgt. Henry Ybarra, 32, of Austin, died on September 11.

These men and women gave their lives defending their country and fighting to liberate a country that has never experienced freedom.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of these individuals.

They served their country bravely, and they will forever be remembered as heroes.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WILSON-
TOWNS HEPATITIS C EPIDEMIC
CONTROL AND PREVENTION ACT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join me in support of

the Wilson-Towns Hepatitis C Epidemic Control and Prevention Act, which I have introduced today with Representative WILSON of New Mexico.

The virus which causes Hepatitis C was first identified in 1989. Currently, about 4 million people in the United States are believed to have the Hepatitis C virus. However, exact figures are not available because of the stealthy nature of this virus. Often called the "silent epidemic," people infected with the Hepatitis C virus can be virtually symptom-free for decades before realizing that life-threatening damage has occurred. Unfortunately, to date, there is no vaccine to prevent this disease.

When this virus first appeared, it was believed that only intravenous drug users were at risk. However, today we know that this disease is no respecter of persons. People from all walks of life have become victims of this virus. Our young people are particularly at risk because tattoos and body piercings have become the fastest growing mode of transmission for Hepatitis C. Many young people are unwittingly putting themselves at risk for contracting this disease. We must provide them with information which will enable them to make informed decisions about this risk.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan effort, which is modeled after a bill introduced on the Senate side by Senators KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON of Texas and EDWARD KENNEDY of Massachusetts, will direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish, promote and support a comprehensive prevention, research and medical management referral program for persons suffering from the Hepatitis C virus. If passed, this bill will represent the first federal effort to provide a strategic approach to combat this disease.

Mr. Speaker, this disease has affected almost 2 percent of the population of this country. We must take concrete action now before many more are needlessly subjected to this virus. Let us not miss this opportunity to avert this potential public health threat. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CONGRATULATIONS, DR. ANDREW
BELSER

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Andrew Belser of Juniata College on receiving the prestigious Pennsylvania Professor of the Year award and to thank him for the dedication and guidance with which he has provided his students.

Since 1981, the United States Professors of the Year program has rewarded outstanding professors for their invaluable work. It is the only national program to recognize college and university professors for their teaching skills, and thus, this award is a testament to Dr. Belser's commitment to his students and the dedication to teaching upon which he prides himself.

Since 1997, Dr. Belser has inspired and directed Juniata College students to study and perform to the best of their abilities. He teaches the importance of maintaining tremendous discipline, technique and skill while making theater, which is a valuable lesson that will influence and guide these students in every endeavor. An experience in the arts, such as the